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11150 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio
44106–1797

Tel 216–421–7340
Fax 216–229–5095
www.clevelandart.org

**News Release**

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Contact: Donna Brock
dbrock@clevelandart.org
(216) 707-2260

# The Cleveland Museum of Art Appoints New Curator of Medieval Art

*Holger Klein, Ph.D to Fill Endowed Bergman Curatorship*

**CLEVELAND (Dec. 5, 2003) —** The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) Director Katharine Lee Reid announced today the appointment of Holger Klein, Ph.D., assistant professor of art history and archaeology at Columbia University in New York, as the Museum's new Robert P. Bergman Curator of Medieval Art. While Klein is officially scheduled to join the CMA in Sept. 2004, he already has begun to work with the Museum on a consulting basis.

The Museum began its search for a curator for this position, endowed in memory of the late former director, more than one year ago.

"We are very fortunate to have a curator of this caliber and depth of scholarship join our institution," Reid said. "After conducting an international search, we are confident that Dr. Klein possesses the wealth of knowledge, technical expertise and sensitivities necessary to preserve and facilitate the interpretation of our medieval holdings in the years to come."

In his new role, Klein will work with Associate Curator of Medieval Art, Stephen Fliegel and be responsible for the acquisition of additions to the collection, as well as research, educational activities and submissions to scholarly and popular publications concerning the collection. In addition he will oversee assistance to visitors and the public and general administration of this curatorial area.

"The Cleveland Museum of Art is home to one of the finest collections of Early Christian, Byzantine and Western Medieval art in America. As the museum is entering into a new and exciting phase of its history, I am pleased to join its curatorial staff and look forward to working with this exquisite collection in the near future."

Dr. Charles L. Venable, deputy director for collections and programs, remarked, "The Medieval collection here in Cleveland is world-renowned and we are extremely excited to have found a curator who we feel can assist us in maximizing all the opportunities inherent in these great works of art. Klein is innovative and personable—perfect qualities to energize this important area of the museum."

The Museum's Medieval collection comprises works produced in continental Europe, the British Isles and the eastern Mediterranean during the period spanning the 3rd century AD to 1500, among which are some of the most notable treasures in the Museum's permanent collection. Included are the gem-encrusted Portable Altar (German, 1038–45) once used by Countess Gertude to celebrate mass in her private chapel or during her travels. Two accompanying crosses reveal masterful 11th century goldwork and were donated to a church she founded

(more)

along with the altar. This gift was the basis for the Guelph Treasure, one of the most famous ecclesiastical treasuries of the Middle Ages.

The collection also contains one of the earliest panel paintings in the Museum's collection, the large *Crucifix* from Pisa of 1230–40, as well as the only complete table fountain (France, 1300–1350) to have survived the Middle Ages. The *Three Mourners from the Tombs of the Dukes of Burgundy* (Claus de Werve, 1380–1439) are among the finest sculptures produced during the middle ages. The collection also includes manuscripts, such as *Hours of Queen Isabella* (Alexander Bening and Associates, 1497–1500), an illuminated prayer book produced for the queen's private devotion by Flemish artists, representing a superior example of manuscript illumination.

Klein, a native of Limburg an der Lahn, Germany, completed his undergraduate studies in Art History, Early Christian Archaeology and German Literature at the Albert-Ludwigs-University in Freiberg im Breisgau in 1992. From Freiburg he went on to the study at the Ludwig-Maximillians-University in Munich, where his teachers included, among others, Willibald Sauerländer and Hans Belting.

On the recommendation of Hugo Buchthal, Klein went on to study art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, where he completed the master of arts degree with distinction in 1994. Klein's studies at the Courtauld Institute were supported by a one-year scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Returning to Germany in 1994/95, Klein continued his graduate studies at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich and the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University in Bonn, from which he received his Ph.D. in 2000.

Klein moved to the United States in 1998 and has since then held three national fellowships: a junior fellowship in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., administered by the Trustees for Harvard University, a Jane and Morgan Whitney Fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Carol Bates Fellowship at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

In the fall of 2000, Klein was appointed Assistant Professor of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University and has taught there since. In 2002, he held the Hettleman Summer Fellowship at Columbia University. He was also awarded a German Research Institute (DFG) Publication Grant and a Samuel H Kress Grant for an exhibition entitled *Restoring Byzantium*, which will open at Columbia University's Wallach Art Gallery in April 2004.

A well-published author, Klein has written one book, *Byzantium, the West and the True Cross. The story of a Relic and its Precious Containers in Byzantium and the Latin West*, which will be published (in German) in 2003/04. His publications include "The so-called Byzantine Diptych in the Winchester Psalter" (1998), "Treasures Lost and Treasures Found: Four Closely Related Reliquaries of the True Cross" (2001), "Between *Maniera Greca* and *Maniera Italiana*" (2001), "Niketas and the True Cross" (2001), and "Eastern Objects and Western Desires: Relics and Reliquaries between Byzantium and the West" (forthcoming, 2004) along with numerous conference presentations and lectures.

Klein is currently curating the show entitled *Restoring Byzantium: The Kariye Camii in Istanbul and the Byzantine Institute Restoration*, which will be shown at Columbia's Wallach Art Gallery from April 13 through June 12, 2004, and travel to the Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the Fall

of 2004. He previously was part of the research team that worked on the exhibition *The Glory of Byzantium* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1997.

In 1998, he was an author on the exhibition "Rom und Byzanz: Schatzkammerstuecke aus bayerischen Sammlungen" at the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum in Munich. Also in 1998, he was author and a member of the organizing committee for "Byzanz: Die Macht der Bilder" at the Dommuseum in Hildesheim. His most recent archaeological projects include a collaborative survey of a group of Late Roman temples in the Hawran (Syria) as well as a survey of the church of Hagia Sophia in Vize (Turkey).

Reflective of his broad interest in the arts of all periods, Klein has co-organized and chaired a symposium on contemporary art for Documenta X in Kassel, Germany, and a symposium on contemporary architecture in Berlin since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a pivotal international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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